

State Superintendent's Council on Special Education
Public Forum Notes
11/12/2012

- High schools are overemphasizing college readiness and need to focus more on alternative education programs.
- Include "Futures Planning" as part of secondary transition.
- FBAs/BIPs are not monitored and reviewed frequently enough by IEP teams.
- Schools are seeing more students that have severe mental health needs and do not have the resources to work with these students. Districts try hard, but too often these students are being reassigned to behavioral schools/programs which often exacerbate the student's mental health issues.
- Students have limited access to mental health support (especially in northern and rural Wisconsin). There is a need to figure out how to get these services in the schools. Ideas include day treatment in the school setting.
- Concern about the private school choice program and the possible special needs vouchers. While there are many parents of special needs students that would like their children to attend choice schools, too many of them do not realize that they will be losing their rights if they enroll their child in a choice school. Additional concern that money funneled through the special needs vouchers will be done so without any accountability in regards to the students' special education needs.
- Need for additional training regarding the new seclusion and restraint legislation. Some schools telling parents they will not touch the child and it is leading to staff injury. Parents and schools need more information. Also wondering if DPI is monitoring the implementation of the new legislation.
- Makeup of the Council- where are the people from Northern Wisconsin and the individuals of color? Suggested we have a council meeting at tribal nations in Northern Wisconsin.
- Suggestion that DPI look at New Mexico's dual diagnosis model. Process focuses on student needs and strengths and has resulted in increased attendance and decreased dropout rate.
- Families moving from IFSPs (Birth to 3 system) to IEPs (schools) need more transition preparation and encouragement to remain involved in their children's services. Many parents don't feel that they belong and we don't talk to parents using language they understand.
- Wanted reassurance that Charter Schools are represented on the Council. Nicola Ciurro introduced herself as the Charter School representative.
- Some parents, especially in early childhood, feeling like they have to choose between school programs and in home autism programs.
- Some parents are revoking special education so they can enroll in open enrollment.